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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,101	12/18/2000	Lixiao Wang	S63.2-9285	5268
490	7590	06/28/2005	EXAMINER	
VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A. 6109 BLUE CIRCLE DRIVE SUITE 2000 MINNETONKA, MN 55343-9185			HOEY, ALISSA L	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3765		

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/740,101	WANG, LIXIAO
Examiner	Art Unit	
Alissa L. Hoey	3765	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3-9 and 12-21 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 12-21 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 9 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/31/04 has been entered.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: from amended claims 9 and 19 "polyether-block polyamide polymer" needs to be added to the specification.

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the middle portion diameter being between about .1-.25 mm greater than the first end portion diameter and the second end portion diameter needs to be added to the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fischell et al. (US 6,221,043).

Fishcell et al. provides a stent delivery system comprising a catheter having a catheter shaft and a medical balloon mounted thereto (figure 6, identifiers 60, 62, 63, 64, 65: column 7, lines 64-67 through column 8, lines 1-21). The medical balloon having a non-inflated state and being inflatable to an inflated state (column 2, lines 26-29), a stent mounting region and a stent disposed about at least a portion of the stent mounting region (figure 6, identifier 60). The stent mounting region having a middle portion, a first end portion adjacent to the middle portion and a second end portion adjacent to the middle portion (figure 6, identifiers 66, 67 and 65). A first cone being adjacent to the first end portion and having a first waist engaged to a first portion of the catheter shaft and the first end diameter being greater than the first waist diameter (figure 6, identifiers 64 and 68). A second cone being adjacent to the second end portion and having a second waist engaged to a second portion of the catheter shaft and the second end diameter being greater than the second waist diameter (figure 6,

identifiers 64 and 68: column 8, lines 1-10). When the medical balloon is expanded the middle portion pushes against the stent before the first end portion and before the second end portion (column 7, lines 45-63).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischell et al.

Fischell et al. provides a stent delivery system as described above in claim 1. However, Fishcell et al. fails to teach the balloon being manufactured from polyesters, polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, etc. Further, Fischell et al. fails to teach the balloon having in the non-inflated state the middle portion being .1-.25 mm greater than the first and second end portion diameter.

In regard to claim 3, Fischell teaches the balloon having a middle portion that has a greater diameter than the first and second end portion diameters.

It would have been obvious to have provided the middle and end portions having a differing diameter between .1-.25 mm or any other dimension, since any dimension in which the middle portion has a greater diameter than the first and second end portions and sized to be used in the human body as a stent delivery system would be a equivalent dimension.

It would have been obvious to have provided the balloon manufactured from a variety of suitable polymer materials, including polyethylene terephthalate, polyesters, polybutylene terephthalate, etc., since all are polymers that are suitable for medical balloon devices and supported in Applicants specification (page 5, lines 6-14).

Allowable Subject Matter

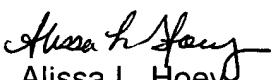
7. Claims 12-21 are allowed.
8. Claims 5, 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alissa L. Hoey whose telephone number is (571) 272-4985. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30)Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (571) 272-4983. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Alissa L. Hoey
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3700